

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 15, 17, 18, 25, 27, 28, 33, 50, 51, 54 and 57, and have canceled claims 1, 7, 19, 27, 55 and 56. Accordingly, claims 15-18, 25, 28, 33, 36, 46-54 and 57 remain pending in this application.

I. Rejections of Claims 1, 7, 15, 16, 18, 27 and 28 under Section 103

Claims 1, 7, 15, 16, 18, 27 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Feher '248 in view of Feher '802. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 7, 27 and 28, thereby obviating the rejection of these claims. Applicants have amended claims 15, 16 and 18 to depend from claim 17 as rewritten and placed in allowable independent form (see Section III below). Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 7, 15, 16, 18, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Rejections of Claims 19, 55 and 56 under Section 103

Claims 19, 55 and 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Feher '248 in view of Feher '802, and further in view of McGrath. Applicants have canceled claims 19, 55 and 56, thereby obviating the rejection of these claims.

III. Allowable Claims

Claims 36 and 46-49 have been indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of these claims, and hereby accept allowance of these claims.

Claims 17, 25, 33, 50-54 and 57 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 17, 25, 33, 50, 51, 54 and 57 in independent form as noted by the Examiner, to include the limitations of a respective base claim. Applicants, therefore, submit that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended claims 15, 16 and 18 to depend from allowable rewritten independent claim 17 and, therefore, submit that these claims are also thereby in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants submit that claims 52-53 are placed in condition for allowance because they each depend from allowable rewritten independent claim 51.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 15-18, 25, 33, 50-54 and 57 are in condition for allowance.


IV. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 7, 15, 16, 18, 19, 27, 28, 55 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 15-18, 25, 28, 33, 36, 46-54 and 57 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE

By


Grant T. Langton
Reg. No. P-39,739
818/795-9900; 213/681-1800